

Inspection date	13 July 2015
Previous inspection date	25 January 2010

The quality and standards of the early years provision	This inspection:	Requires improvement	3
	Previous inspection:	Good	2
How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend		Good	2
The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children		Requires improvement	3
The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision		Requires improvement	3
The setting does not meet legal requirements for early years settings			

Summary of key findings for parents

This provision requires improvement. It is not yet good because:

- The manager does not obtain parents' prior consent to administer medicine. In addition, staff do not record the time, date and circumstances of the given medication or inform parents appropriately. As a result, staff do not assure children's health. This is also a breach of the Childcare Register.
- Staff do not always provide the younger children with opportunities to share their work and freely contribute their ideas.

It has the following strengths

- Children benefit from an extensive outdoor area which fully promotes their physical well-being. Children regularly experience pond dipping, minibeast hunts and planting in the garden, helping to develop their understanding of the world and physical skills.
- Children participate enthusiastically as special helpers known as 'Acorn Agents'. Acorn Agents help staff to identify those children who have participated in the club's activities well. This promotes children's independence, self-esteem and good behaviour.
- The manager and staff have developed strong relationships with staff at the school. The headteacher, manager and committee meet every term. Staff talk to the school's nurture leader, the child protection officer and teachers regularly, which ensures staff fully support children between school and the club.
- The manager has a strong vision for the club and is passionate about making further improvements. She asks parents, staff and children to contribute and completes audits to identify strengths and weaknesses. This means that all those involved in the setting contribute to improving children's experiences.

What the setting needs to do to improve further

To meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage the provider must:

- obtain permission from the child's parent to administer all prescription and non-prescription medications; keep a written record of each time children are given any medicine and inform children's parents on the same day

To further improve the quality of the early years provision the provider should:

- give younger children more opportunities to share their work and ideas with others.

To meet the requirements of the Childcare Register the provider must:

- obtain parents' written consent to administer all prescription and non-prescription medications, record all medicine administered to children, including the date, circumstances and person who administered it (compulsory part of the childcare register)
- obtain parents' written consent to administer all prescription and non-prescription medications, record all medicine administered to children, including the date, circumstances and person who administered it (voluntary part of the childcare register).

Inspection activities

- The inspector observed children indoors and outdoors.
- The inspector had a leadership and management meeting with the manager and nominated person.
- The inspector reviewed a sample of documentation.
- The inspector spoke to staff about safeguarding and supervision.

Inspector

Genevieve Mackenzie

Inspection findings

How well the early years provision meets the needs of the range of children who attend. This is good

Staff have a good understanding of children's development. They observe children and build on their learning at school with planned and purposeful play activities. Staff encourage children to choose activities for themselves, promoting their independence. Children benefit from links in the community with regular visits from people like firefighters, police officers and the postal worker. Children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are well cared for and staff ensure that they meet all their needs. Children enjoy a good range of creative activities that promote their imaginations and encourage them to express themselves freely. For example, older children encourage younger children to participate and together they decide to make up a superhero with lots of horns.

The contribution of the early years provision to the well-being of children requires improvement

Children learn about physical health by making choices from the healthy snacks and being physically active at the club. Children use the extensive outdoor area in all weathers and participate in sports activities and games. This promotes their physical well-being. Staff praise children for their achievements with stamps and certificates that help them to feel confident. Staff keep the environment safe by checking and removing hazards daily and they have systems in place to ensure children are in attendance. Children settle well and build secure relationships with staff, which promotes their emotional well-being. Older children buddy up to younger children to help them follow the expectations of behaviour at the club. As a result, children are well behaved. Staff have a thorough knowledge of child protection and understand the procedures to follow to report any concerns. However, they do not follow the requirements for administration of medication and, therefore, do not fully protect children's health.

The effectiveness of the leadership and management of the early years provision requires improvement

The manager does not provide staff with a suitable means of recording the administration of medicine to children. Additionally, the manager does not get parents' prior permission to administer the necessary medication. This places children's health at risk. The manager is enthusiastic about staff development and focuses on training in a positive way. Staff attend workshops and conferences which raise awareness in areas such as creative development. This has had a positive impact on planning activities to help children to extend their creative skills. The manager supervises staff throughout the year and during annual appraisals, ensuring they understand their responsibilities to provide good experiences for children to complement their schooling. Parents feel their children are well cared for and find the manager listens to feedback and makes changes to accommodate their requests.

Setting details

Unique reference number	122478
Local authority	Surrey
Inspection number	840409
Type of provision	Out of school provision
Registration category	Childcare - Non-Domestic
Age range of children	4 - 8
Total number of places	72
Number of children on roll	33
Name of provider	Acorns Committee
Date of previous inspection	25 January 2010
Telephone number	01932 259604

Acorns After School Club registered in 1999. It is located in Walton Oak School in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey. The out of school club is open each weekday from 7.45am to 8.45am and 3.10pm to 5.30pm, term time only. The holiday play scheme is open for two weeks at the end of the summer term and for a short time at Easter from 9am to 5pm. The club employs 16 members of staff. Of these, one holds Early Years Teacher Status, three hold qualifications at level 5, two hold qualifications at level 2 and one member of staff holds a qualification at level 1.

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